Extension of time limit for completing East-West corridor

†1128. SHRI AJAY MAROO: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the time limit to complete the work of East-West corridor scheme has been extended by two years from December, 2007;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the cost of project would increase as a result of further extending the time limit; and

(d) if so, the extent to which it would increase?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) and (b) The East-West Corridor is likely to be substantially completed by December, 2009.

The main problems affecting the progress have been the delay in disbursement of compensation for land acquisition in Assam, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh. There has also been some delay in Uttar Pradesh due to the condition stipulated by the State Government for providing 10 m strip of land for afforestation before allowing tree cutting. Law and Order in Assam has also to some extent affected the work in that State. However, all these issues are being pursued with the respective State Governments and efforts are being made to steep up the work.

(c) and (d) In view of the provision of cost escalation clause in the contracts, the cost of construction may increase and final cost of construction can be assessed only after completion of the project.

Cost escalation in NH projects

†1129. DR. MURLI MAHOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the construction work of 49 road construction projects related to National Highways with a length of about 20,000 km has not been completed within the fixed time limit;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the cost escalation in these projects due to delay;

(d) whether it is also a fact that the escalation of cost due to delay in construction of projects is suggested to be recovered by increasing the rate of toll charged from vehicles using the roads; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) and (b) 53 projects, having a length of 1833

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.